

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00058 090813Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E. O. 11652: /A

TAGS: PINT IT

SUBJ: TUSCAN DC LEADER FORECASTS NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

1. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) REGIONAL LEGISLATOR, TOMMASO BISAGNO, IN CONVERSATION WITH CONSULATE INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT DC NATIONAL CONGRESS WILL BE POSTPONED AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS WILL OCCUR BEFORE SCHEDULED 1977 DATE.

2. BISAGNO STATED THAT DUE TO CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS, DC NATIONAL CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO BE POSTPONED AND HE SUGGESTED FIRST 10 DAYS OF APRIL AS LIKELY NEW DATE. THIS SLIPPAGE WILL ALSO RESULT IN DELAY IN RE-ORGANIZING PARTY ON REGIONAL LEVEL AS A RESULT OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT NATIONAL CONGRESS.

3. DUE TO THIS BUILT-IN DELAY AND TO FACT THAT GOVERNMENT WHICH EMERGES FROM CRISIS NEEDS TIME TO OVERCOME ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, BISAGNO FELT ELECTIONS SHOULD NOT BE HELD BEFORE FALL. HE HOPED ECONOMIC RECOVERY WILL BE WELL UNDERWAY BY NOVEMBER AND PICKED THAT DATE AS OPTIMUM TIME FOR ELECTIONS.

4. BISAGNO IS ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER OF ANDREOTTI FORCES IN TUSCANY. HE STATED THAT HE AND ANDREOTTI WERE CLOSE PERSONAL FRIENDS AND WERE OFTEN IN CONTACT. HE SPOKE AS IF HE WERE WELL INFORMED BUT DID NOT INDICATE THAT THE ABOVE WAS ANDREOTTI'S VIEW.

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